

Synopsis for “The Regular Issues of the American Bank Note Company, 1879-1893”

Biographical/Historical

First founded in 1795 as Murray, Draper, Fairham & Company, the American Bank Note Company developed into the United States' foremost high security engraving and printing firm in the years prior to the Civil War. It produced paper money, postage stamps, stock and bond certificates. After the Civil War, it produced paper money and stamps for foreign governments, including Canada and Haiti. In 1879, it merged with the National Bank Note and Continental Bank Note companies.(1). The American bank Note Company took over from the Continental Bank Note Company on February 4, 1879. The stamp Contract held by the Continental apparently was just assumed by the American bank Note Company and fulfilled by them.

Treatment

The exhibit starts with essays and proofs of all issues and then follows issues chronologically from 1879 to 1893 except for a brief diversion after 1887 to exhibit stamps cancelled aboard Mexican steamers. Color variations, fancy cancellations, multiples, plate flaws, and usage on cover as well as many post-UPU treaty rate covers are shown.

Importance

This exhibit demonstrates many significant events that occurred during this time period.

- The continuance of drop and drop with carrier fees.
- Proliferation of fancy cancels.
- Color variations due to the instability of the printing process.
- Glenn Allen, Virginia pre-cancels.
- The Universal Postal Union starting on April 1, 1879, and the later entrance of many countries into the UPU resulted in treaty rates.
- The use of printed postage due stamps.
- The assassination of President Garfield and the issue of a stamp to memorialize him.
- The completion of the Northern Pacific in 1883.
- The beginning of special delivery service.
- 11 territories including becoming 6 states.
- Rate reduction to 2c per ½ oz on October 1, 1883
- Rate Reduction to 2c per oz on July 1, 1885
- Registration fee reduced to 8c on January 1, 1893

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Exhibit Highlights

- Block of four, plate trial color proof on wove paper of the 5c Grant.
- Die and plate essays of the Issue of 1879.
- Plate proof of all issues including a complete set of the Issue of 1890-93 with the original envelope.
- Sheet margin from the only American Bank Note imprint sheet known to exist.
- Glenn Allen, Virginia printed pre-cancellation on the 1c Franklin for the Issue 1879.
- Post-UPU treaty rate cover to Canada.
- Short transfer of the 3c green of 1879.
- NY foreign mail cancel on 5c 1879.
- Strip of three, 10c brown with and without secret mark.
- 10c brown with secret mark on cover, post-UPU treaty rate to Guatemala.
- 10c brown without the secret mark treaty rate to Panama.
- 15c red orange to Cape of Good Hope, treaty rate.
- 30c full black to France.
- 90c carmine on package front.
- Mail order business cancel.
- NY Supplementary mail cancel type F.
- Black brown shade variety on cover of the 10c re-engraved.
- Arizona territory cover with 10c brown re-engraved.
- 5c yellow brown treaty rate to Bolivia.
- 5c yellow brown forwarded within Japan.
- 5c yellow brown to Jamaica, West Indies.
- Mystic Bridge, CT cancel on 2c red brown.
- 2c red brown treaty rate to New South Wales, Australia.
- Illustrated cover to France from Utah Territory.
- 4c blue green on registered cover.
- 1c ultramarine on up-rated postal card to Brazil.
- 4th class merchandise rate.
- 2c green treaty rate to Auckland, New Zealand.
- 3c vermilion to Costa Rica.
- Various stamps with Mexican cancels, post on Mexican steamers in NY harbor.
- 4c carmine double weight.
- 5c indigo to Japan.
- 1c dull blue candle frame variety
- 1c dull blue 2nd class transient newspaper rate.

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- 3c purple to Vienna, Austria
- 5c chocolate to Columbia, Norway, Greece, Italy, and Philippine Islands.
- 6c brown red registered.
- 10c green to Syria.
- 15c indigo registered to London.
- Block of 4 of 30c black and 90c orange (x2).
- 30c black on package front (x2).